

# America's

# FUTURE

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## OPERATION TEXTBOOK

As I promised last week, I would like to report on a most encouraging project affecting your children. I suppose I need hardly repeat that one of the most serious problems we face today is the textbooks from which our children are taught. We send children to school - schools on which we spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year. We send them to school to be educated as good American citizens - citizens who will appreciate the blessings of living under our constitutional form of

government, and working in our free-enterprise economic system. But what happens? Often they come out of high school with contempt for these things, and with the notion that the best thing in the world is a big government which will do all their thinking for them.

Much of this is due to the textbooks they use in school. But how is a parent, or a teacher, or a school-board member - the great majority of whom are good Americans - to know whether a textbook is

sound or unsound? How can they tell if it is teaching youngsters the essentials of the American Republic? How can they tell if the book instills in children a contempt for capitalism and a love for some form of socialism? Parents obviously can't read all their children's textbooks in the social sciences. And even if they did, the propaganda in them is often so slick that it is difficult to recognize. This is a job for experts - for trained educators who will review these texts and make their findings available to everyone interested in our children's education.

America's Future, Inc., which is a non-profit, educational organization, has established a Textbook Evaluation Committee. This com-

mittee is made up of leading American educators and writers. And they are preparing careful, objective reviews of high-school texts in the social-studies field. Of course, the entrenched educationists will smear this fine project as "book-burning" or a "witch hunt." But you can ignore their howls. OPERATION TEXTBOOK, as it is called, simply supplies expert reviews of textbooks (just as other books are reviewed in newspapers and magazines) so that Americans, at long last, can have a basis on which to judge the books from which their youngsters are being taught. You can get full details about OPERATION TEXTBOOK by writing to *America's Future, Inc.*, 542 Main Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.

## THE NEED IS GREAT

Perhaps you may be interested in how OPERATION TEXTBOOK came into being. Several years ago, America's Future published two booklets about our public schools. One of these booklets cited several textbooks widely used in American schools. It called attention, for instance, to a textbook which left the impression on sixth-grade stud-

ents that the Soviet communist system was very much like our own! The publishers of this booklet began to get inquiries from all over the country asking about specific textbooks used in local schools. And, believe it or not, when America's Future looked around for some organization or publication to which they could refer these troubled parents

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and school-board members, they discovered there was not a single agency in America which was examining textbooks in a careful and objective manner.

This is why the Textbook Evaluation Committee was set up. As I said, it is made up of a number of distinguished and well-known educators and writers. Its object is not to tell schools what textbooks they should or should not use. Its object is purely and strictly informational and educational - to supply to any interested party a clear, objective analysis of the contents of each book which is reviewed. A very careful set of criteria is followed by each reviewer.

Of course, the accusation will be made that these reviews are biased. The assumption among modern educationists is that only "liberal"-leftist opinions are unbiased - crazy as that seems. Well, the reviews are biased - but only to the extent that each reviewer has a basic belief in American constitutional government, the God-given freedom of the individual, and the American free-enterprise system. It seems to me that is the kind of bias which the American taxpayer who supports our schools would be thoroughly in favor of.

## A SMEAR OPERATION

These reviews will point out which are sound textbooks, which ones are unsound, and which are partly sound and partly unsound. But this fairness will not prevent OPERATION TEXTBOOK from being smeared by the entrenched "liberal"-leftists in and out of the National Education Association. Even before OPERATION TEXTBOOK actually got under way, the NEA - with no basis for judgment - tried to smear it. And so that you will be on your guard against these smears, I would like to give you an example of how

the National Education Association carries them out. Or perhaps I should say the ruling clique in the NEA, since the organization is made up of thousands of teachers who do not necessarily go along with all of NEA's activities. In order to tell this little story, I have to inject a personal note, for which I hope you will forgive me.

America's Future, Inc., among its numerous educational activities, is the producer of this broadcast. Aside from that, however, I have no official connection with the organization, so I feel I can speak freely. One of the pamphlets on the schools, to which I just referred - and which America's Future published - was called *What's Happened to Our Schools?* It was written by Miss Rosalie Gordon. Miss Gordon happens to be my research assistant, but of course her pamphlet was entirely her own project.

It was a factual, sober analysis of the inroads made in our schools by the "progressive" educationists and the "liberal"-leftists in the last quarter century. Of course, the National Education Association, which spearheaded many of these inroads, did not like the pamphlet. But

did they criticize or even attack the pamphlet openly, in the American spirit of fair play - so that Miss Gordon and her publisher, America's Future, could have a chance to reply? They did not. They wrote letters around to individuals and to state and local education associations. Not being able to smear Miss Gordon directly, they attempted to smear her by association. These letters were full of misstatements, smears and even outright falsehoods about America's Future and about me. And the letters wound up by warning people "not to write to Flynn or Gordon." In other words, NEA did not want the recipients of these smear letters to get the truth directly from either Miss Gordon or me.

Well, some of the people to whom NEA sent this smear, ignored their warning and wrote to Miss Gordon and America's Future. America's Future, incidentally, has a board of trustees made up of some of the finest Americans in business and professional life. The NEA pundit who wrote this smear letter was promptly advised by America's Future as to the misstatements and falsehoods in his letter. But to this day I

have had no indication that he corrected his statements to his numerous correspondents. On the contrary, some of his smears still turn up now and then - passed along by unsuspecting local NEA members who swallow whole what is sent out by NEA's Washington office.

This is why I say you must

be on your guard about these smears against all those who are trying to help our schools and our children toward a truly American education. And I repeat once again - you can get full details about OPERATION TEXTBOOK by writing to America's Future, 542 Main Street, New Rochelle, N. Y.

- John T. Flynn

*Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 11/22/59*

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## LET NO AMERICAN BE INTIMIDATED

"The National Education Association (NEA) is a powerful pressure group which wields great influence...The technique is to call anyone who criticizes, an enemy of education, and to treat him accordingly...

"For champions of better education a hard year is ahead... NEA is girding for a giant counteroffensive and has already upped membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 to strengthen its legislative activity. The goal is to regain the people's confidence, so largely lost in what is called 'a year of infamy.' This is to be done not by a change in the progressive theories but by vigorous attacks against 'unprofessional consideration of school programs' - in other words, expression of lay criticism of our schools. The counteroffensive is being organized from its elegant headquarters in Washington - as luxurious a home for the top leaders in education as is provided by the more affluent labor unions. I hope no American will let himself be intimidated. The welfare of our children and the future of our country are too important for us to give up the fight before it has made a good start."

Admiral H. G. Rickover  
in EDUCATION AND FREEDOM

## Book Review FRONTIER ADVENTURE, HISTORY, ROMANCE

THE SCARLET FEATHER by Dale Van Emery, 315 pages, Holt, N. Y., \$3.95.

Since first popularized by James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*, the American frontier has been a favorite subject for writers. Tales of rugged individualism, harrowing Indian raids, cunning scouts who blazed a trail through virtually impenetrable forests - all added to the increasing fame and folklore of the era.

The latest of these frontier stories is THE SCARLET FEATHER, a tale that richly combines adventure, history and romance throughout its 12 chapters. After the Revolutionary War, veteran Duncan Jordan decided to found a town near the Ohio River, somewhere between the Virginia and Kentucky borders. Together with two other families, the settlers floated in barges along the Ohio until they settled at a spot which they named Revel Hundreds.

A severe winter and serious privation were not the only hardships that confronted the settlers. As bad as these external troubles were, the internal tensions which divid-

ed them threatened even more to abort the new settlement. Chief among their dissensions was the seething hatred between the other two families. The Lymans, a family of proud carpenters, looked with disdain upon the illiterate Slovers, and this scorn was further heightened with the revelation that the Lyman boys and one of the Slover girls were less than discreet in their relationship.

Bothered by a lack of unity and beset by lack of food, the settlers were unable to resist effectively the sporadic Indian raids. When it appeared that Duncan, who somehow had managed to hold together the rival families, was killed while seeking help, the bleak winter appeared to have triumphed over the settlement.

In most comparable novels, just at the height of the crisis there emerges an intrepid buckskin hero whose cunning saves the periled town. A rescuer appears in this novel too, although he is anything but the romantic figure of most frontier stories. His name is Caleb Lewis, a taciturn, enigmatic back-

woodsman, whose very presence alarms the settlers. Despite their personal aversion to him, however, his knowledge of the wild frontier and its inhabitants makes him an invaluable ally. The price he demands for his assistance reaches a climax as the story

sweepstoits surprise ending.

This well-written novel is an interesting addition to our fiction of the Revolutionary era. The author is well-schooled in frontier history and he makes it come to life in many unforgettable scenes.

- Edwin McDowell

## GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

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1. The recipient of your gift is reminded of your thoughtfulness not once, but 52 times a year.
2. You have a part in keeping others informed of the facts and opinions essential to the preservation of our American way of life. And you help spread the word about new, interesting and exciting books on many subjects.
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Just send us the names and addresses of those you want to receive **AMERICA'S FUTURE** for one year, indicate how you want your gift card signed, and enclose \$5.00 for each subscription. We will do the rest. Each recipient of a gift subscription will also get a *free* copy of the eye-opening book **THE NET THAT COVERS THE WORLD** (See *AF* review 11/20/59).

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